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Plague in Turkey.

It is reported under date of August 29, 1901, that no new cases of plague had occurred at Constantinople for ten days, and that, in view of that fact, the sanitary council had decided to give clean bills of health to vessels leaving Constantinople.

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

New Italian emigration law.

NAPLES, ITALY, *September 3, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report:

The new Italian emigration law which takes effect to-day presents a number of features of interest from a sanitary and service point of view.

Naples, Genoa, and Palermo are the only Italian ports from which emigration will be permitted. Venice, formerly an emigration port, has been taken off the list. Italian emigrants are defined as Italian citizens who leave Italy in Italian or foreign vessels occupying third-class compartments or compartments which the Italian authorities consider to be equivalent to the ordinary third class.

At the emigration ports the Italian Government is represented by an inspector of emigration. With the consent of the Governments of the different countries to which emigration takes place, inspectors of emigrants are to be appointed for duty in such countries, or diplomatic or consular officers detailed for that purpose. It is the duty of these inspectors stationed in foreign countries to protect the interests of Italians, furnish information regarding them, and obtain employment for them when necessary.

The medical officer, or one of the medical officers of all emigrant vessels leaving Italy, must be a medical officer of the royal Italian navy, in the active or auxiliary service. To these medical officers is intrusted the supervision on board of Italian citizens, in addition to general medical, surgical, and sanitary duties.

The companies engaged in carrying emigrants are to be represented by agents, known as "vettore," who are responsible to the Italian government for the enforcement of the regulations. The "vettore" are to guarantee that the Italian medical officer is furnished with his living aboard and a first-class stateroom, both for the outward and the return trip.

Under the law, emigrants refused for any malady must be returned without expense to the Italian Government or the emigrants to the place where they live; or, if foreign to Italy, to the frontier by which they entered Italy for embarkment. The "vettore" are responsible to the emigrants for civil damages in case of rejection at the final destination on account of foreign immigration laws, when it can be proved that the "vettore," or those for whom he acts, were aware, before the sailing, of the circumstances that would probably determine the rejection of the emigrant.

The "vettore" are responsible to the Italian Government for the safe transport of emigrants to their destination. In addition, they are required to assume the responsibility for the return of indigent Italians by emigrant ships which touch at Italian ports after landing emigrants abroad. These vessels, at the request of the Italian diplomatic or con-

sular authorities, must accept such passengers at a uniform rate of 2 lires a day, including food. Steamships of less than 1,000 tons burden must be prepared to take 10 such returning Italians at the price stated, and 1 additional passenger for every additional 200 tons burden, or fraction thereof.

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Hygiene of bacteriological laboratories in France.

NAPLES, ITALY, *September 10, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report: A report has been rendered by the commission composed of representatives of the French ministry of public instruction detailed to make an investigation of measures to preserve students and the public from dangers resulting from research in bacteriological laboratories. Hygienic conditions to be observed in laboratory work are prescribed in detail. From their official source, the recommendations are more or less mandatory. In the report it is recommended that all persons doing bacteriological work be obliged to wear aprons covering all their garments, and that the aprons be renewed at each sitting and disinfected prior to being sent to the laundry.

The use of cigarettes is prohibited during the time of research. This rule is insisted upon as being of the utmost importance, inasmuch as cigarettes deposited on laboratory tables are likely to become soiled with germs which may afterwards be conveyed to the mouth.

This rule relating to cigarettes is not made to apply to dissecting rooms in which the use of tobacco is, so to speak, necessary, to render endurable the odors arising from cadavers.

The commission in its report makes explicit recommendations regarding precautions to be taken in the inoculation of animals used for experiments. These animals should be isolated in metallic cages easily sterilized by fire or immersion, and should be incinerated immediately after death. All cultures that have served their use are to be destroyed by sterilization.

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Plague in Naples

[Cablegram.]

NAPLES, ITALY, *September 26, 1901.*

Eleven cases, 4 deaths suspected plague at Naples. * * * Diagnosis confirmed by bacteriological examination—regulations observed.

EAGER.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.